

# THE EAGLE AND THE LIONS

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The Polish-Indian Friendship Society in Perspective





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This essay on the Polish-Indian Friendship Society is based in its first part on Professor Słuszkiewicz's article entitled Indian Studies in Poland, published by the ICCR in a volume entitled Indian Studies Abroad, London 1964, and in the remaining part on a brochure in Polish written by the Vice President of the Society, Captain S. Jabłoński /Navy retired/, on the occasion of the 10-th Anniversary of the Society.

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A bit of history

India had been heard of in Poland as early as the Middle Ages. That knowledge, however, derived from Latin compilations of the age of the declining Roman Empire and recorded in chronicles and geographical works, was naturally extremely hazy and simply swarmed with fantastic stories and tales.

When in the year 1498 Vasco da Gama reached the port of Calicut and opened up a new era of relations between Europe and India, he found that there had already been on the sub-continent a Jew from Poznań /a Polish city whose existence has been recorded since the 10th century/ for over a quarter of a century. This man was in the service of the Ruler of Bijapur who sent him to gather secret information about the newcomers. The Portuguese captured him as a spy and took him to Portugal where he was baptized and received the name of Gaspar. This Gaspar da Gama, alias Gaspar da India, provided the first definite information about the country to the Portuguese.

About the middle of the 16th century Erazm Kretkowski was said to have visited India, but the only information regarding it is found in a brief epitaph written by the great poet of that century, Jan Kochanowski. An authentic travel account was given for the first time by Krzysztof Pawłowski of Pomerania who made his voyage to India on a Portuguese ship and reached Goa in 1596. That account describes the flora, fauna and the products of the country as well as its inhabitants.

In the 17th century quite a number of Poles had travelled from Lisbon to Goa. They were Christian monks, mostly Jesuits. Among them Gabriel Letowski was the only one who had spent



over forty years in India /1617 - 1659/, but unfortunately exact facts about his activities are not available. Among the Carmelites who also did missionary work in Goa the most prominent were Mikołaj Kazimierski and Jan Drzewiecki /both in the latter half of the 17th century/. It is to be regretted that we do not possess detailed knowledge of the activities of those Polish missionaries who spent long periods of their lives in India.

It should be emphasized here that contrary to mission work done by representatives of many other countries, Polish missionaries had no ulterior motives, and that religious activities sprang from nothing other than a spirit of devotion and pure love for fellow man. Poland had never entertained any intentions of extending her commerce to Asia and still less of acquiring colonies.

By the 18th century Polish missionaries were not longer so numerous. We should mention above all Mikołaj Szostak, the Carmelite who went to Malabar in 1736, and was consecrated as bishop of Verapoli /Travancore/ in 1748. Beginning from the middle of the century there appear in India Polish soldiers seeking adventures. Above all the two authors of memoirs, in a manner supplementing each other's work: Maksymilian Wikliński and Teodor Dzwonkowski. The memoirs of the latter deal, however, mainly with Indonesia and to some extent with Ceylon.

It was not, however, till the beginning of the 19th century that India, ancient India that is, became the subject of scientific interest in Poland. This is easily understood when we take into account Poland's lack of material interests



and her tragic political condition in the second half of the 18th century, at a time when other European countries took an increasingly active interest in the languages, culture and literatures of India. The stimulus behind such interests in our country was supplied partially at any rate, by the fashion for the exotic in aristocratic society with King Stanisław August Poniatowski at its head. This fashion found its way into the country from France and was centred round India above everything else. Among the works of art collected by this last Polish king, there were paintings and drawings of Indian gods and goddesses.

Walenty Skorochoń Majewski somehow procured a copy of a Sanskrit grammar, published at Serampore in 1806, and devoted himself earnestly to studying the language. Beginning in 1809 he spoke on Sanskrit alphabet, at meetings of the Warsaw Society of Friends of Sciences, read out excerpts of Sanskrit texts, compared Sanskrit words with Polish, summarized the Ramayana, and in 1816 published a book containing some of his lectures. In the introduction to the book he dealt among other things with the brotherhood of the inhabitants of India and the ancient Slavs. He also included in the work two fragments of the Ramayana. He got Sanskrit types founded at his own expense, and used them for publishing a text entitled Brahma-valvarta-purana along with his own Polish version of it.

Of greater value than Majewski's writings was "Ancient History of India" by famous Polish historian Joachim Lelewel, published in 1820 and based on works of foreign scholars of those days. The book contained little geography, some mythology and that much real history which he could gather from his



studies of Greek and Latin authors.

A detailed Sanskrit grammar with a comparative study of Sanskrit and Old Slavonic as well as Polish was written by Rev. Franciszek Ksawery Malinowski. It was published between 1872 and 1880. It should be noted here that beginning with 1860 there were lectures on Sanskrit in Cracow University delivered by B.Juelg, J.Baudouin de Courtenay and J.Rozwadowski till 1926. These lectures were, however, meant for specialized linguists.

The first Polish scholar in Sanskrit was Leon Mañkowski. He published a treatise on Panchatantra by Kshemendra and on Kadambari by Bana, and he was appointed to the Chair of Indology in Cracow University. He died in 1909. The lectures in Cracow were taken over four years by Andrzej Gawroński. He published many a dissertation. Among others on the Mrichchhakatika, on Ashvaghosha, Kalidasa, Bhavabhuti. Besides Gawroński devoted a great deal of attention to Sanskrit drama and wrote a separate book refuting in detail the groundless theory about its dependence on Greek influence. Similarly he prepared the first independent Sanskrit grammar in Polish. Further, he superbly translated fragments of Ashvaghosha's poems and Thakur's Sadhana. He was also one of the founders of the Annual of Oriental Studies and it was he who organized the Lwow Oriental Institute after he had moved there from Cracow. Gawroński's death in 1927 was an irreparable loss for Oriental Studies in general and for Indology in particular in Poland.

Gawroński's successor to the Chair of Indology was S.Stasiak whose subjects of special interest were philosophy and religion. After the war he went to England where he lived until his tragic death in 1962.



Just as Gawronski had done in Lwow S.Schayer, a professor of Warsaw University was instrumental in founding the Warsaw Oriental Institute existing till today. It was thanks to his initiative that the organ of the Institute - The Bulletin of Oriental Studies was started. Apart from his par excellence scientific work mainly in the field of Buddhist philosophy and logic, Schayer did not refrain from writing popular scientific articles and wrote among others a fairly detailed history of Sanskrit literature. He also translated Kalidasa's Shakuntala with the detailed introduction. Schayer fell a victim to tuberculosis at the age of 42, exactly like Gawronski and at the same age.

From 1927 Helena Willman-Grabowska tried to fill the gap created in Cracow by Gawronski's departure. She died in 1957. In her numerous works she dealt principally with linguistic matters. She also wrote on mythology and religion, folklore and India's constitutional and state problems. We should also mention her translations of parts of Kathasaritsagara.

Among other scholars of still more recent time, the late Associate Professor St. Michalski /1881-1961/ is primarily known as translator of selected hymns of the Rigveda, excerpts of the Upanishads, of Dhammapada, Bhagavadgita and some other texts. Besides this he was known as a research worker in the field of philosophy and religion of ancient India.

#### Polish Indology today.

Nowadays there are also many scholars doing valuable work in the field of Indian Studies. The oldest of them is Associate Professor F. Tokarz, who represents the same as late Associate Professor Michalski subjects. Next comes Professor E. Słuszkiewicz,



Gawronski's pupil in the field of Indian Philology. He concerns himself with the linguistic and stylistic side of the text of Kautilya's Arthashastra, on the Ramayana and also on other subjects such as folklore, etymology, cultural history etc. As the Head of Indology Department, Warsaw University he guides the work of a batch of younger scholars. These are:

Dr T. Rutkowska - Hindi language and literature, Mrs A. Karlikowska M.A., - Urdu language and literature, Mrs B. Grabowska, M.A., - Bengali language and literature, Dr M. K. Byrski - Sanskrit literature and classical Indian theatre, Mr A. Ługowski M.A. - Vedic language and literature, Mr A. Karp M.A. - Pali language and Buddhist literature. Mrs A. Kowalska - Soni, M.A., has been for two years now on study leave in India. She is working on Hindi poetry. Associate Professor L. Skurzak is the Head of Indology Department of Wrocław University. He is the author of a study on asceticism in Ancient India and is generally interested in social and religious matters. Together with him works Dr Hanna Wałkowska interested in similar problems. Dr T. Pobożniak working in Cracow University is interested rather in Gipsy and modern Indian languages.

Before we conclude this part of our remarks, we should mention the fact that there are also Polish Indologists outside Poland. The oldest of them is Maryla Falk. She lived in India during the last war and taught at the University of Calcutta for a time. It was due to her initiative that in 1939 the Indo-Polish Cultural Society was organized there. Rabindranath Thakur became its honorary president and Dr S. Radhakrishnan was the Society's acting president.



Arnold Kunst, author of dissertation on Buddhist logic went to London before the war and was appointed lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies. After the war he settled down in the U.S.A. Ludwik Sternbach, who spent some time in India during the war, has also been living in the U.S.A. He is an honorary professor of the Bombay University and has won distinction as the author of quite a number of treatises and articles on subjects relative to literature and law in ancient India. N. Altuchow, professor of Indology at the University of Montevideo, Uruguay, is interested in general Indological matters and is teaching Sanskrit.

Quite exceptional in this context is the person of Wanda Dynowska, known in India as Umadevi. She went to India shortly before the Second World War in order to study Indian philosophy. There she came into contact with eminent leaders of the independence struggle like Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Rajendra Prasad, and Dr S. Radhakrishnan. Organizing the so called Polish-Indian Library was one of the most spectacular achievements of Wanda Dynowska. Struggling against various odds she has managed to publish a number of volumes containing her own Polish translations of different important texts. Among others the Bhagavadgita, the Message of Shri Ramana Maharshi, Tiruvalluvar Kural and a number of collections of poetry in various Indian languages translated into Polish, of course. Besides this Wanda Dynowska has been doing a lot of other things in order to propagate Polish culture in India. For instance in 1945-6 she organized a Polish Folk Dance Troupe which met with great success there.

Along with Wanda Dynowska, Mr Maurycy Frydman, known in India as Bharatananda, has also been engaged in a similar type of work. Both of them are honorary members of the Polish-Indian Friendship Society.



In order to make this picture complete we have to mention here late Dr Hiranmoy Ghoshal who settled in Poland before the Second World War and having left this country for the duration of the war returned in 1957 to find, after his busy and active life, eternal rest in Polish soil. Dr Ghoshal was a reader in Indian History and Bengali language and literature in the University of Warsaw. He was a prolific essayist, translator and writer. Writing in Bengali and English he did an immense service to acquaint a very wide public in India and outside, with the Polish cause. His many translations from Polish literature served a similar purpose making known in India the names of Sienkiewicz, Prus, Reymont, Nowakowski, Mrozek, Parandowski, Iwaszkiewicz, Nałkowska, Putrament, Czeszko, Wasilewska, Rudnicki and Brandys. Dr Ghoshal's life is an excellent example of a very deeply understood service to mutual friendship and understanding between our countries.

#### The direct antecedent of our Society.

Just before the war a very important, from our point of view, event took place. In 1936 due to concerted efforts of many great friends of India /among whom were the already mentioned great Indologist Professor S.Schayer, Dr H.Ghoshal, Associate Professor Dr O.Górka, Dr H.Csorba, Miss E.Rudzka and many others/, the Society of India's Friends was established under the patronage of the Oriental Institute, University of Warsaw. It had three sections: economic, cultural and military. Because the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally approved its status, while it usually could only approve of a society concerned with an independent country, therefore this may be considered an official Polish approval of India's



right to independence long before she actually gained it. In a way it may also be taken for an official disapproval of British colonial policy. Yet the Society hardly had time to unfold its wings and embark upon more intensive activity when the outbreak of the Second World War dealt a frightful blow to the Polish nation and to all for what it stood. The six years long, dreadful nightmare of Nazi occupation held in its clutches the very soul of our country. There was no rest, no peace : Only bloody terror and persecution which defy all description. Poland embarked upon an unequal deadly struggle for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi in a special message called it a just struggle giving thus a testimony that Poland's and India's hearts beat in unison.

#### Polish-Indian relations immediately after the war.

The deeply entrenched sympathy of the Polish nation towards India survived one of the worst upheavals with which our country has ever met during its not too smooth a history. The Second World War with its indescribable atrocities swept over our country leaving behind smouldering ruins and rubble. Everything had to be started from scratch. But our crippled country was not a spiritual cripple. The zeal which made us reconstruct our cities, our factories and farms also made us reestablish our old friendships. The situation had changed considerably. Poland had gone through a series of profound revolutionary changes which reshaped her social and economical structure. She has emerged from the war and the revolution as a socialist country with an enormous task of reconstruction and construction facing her. Exhausted by war our country, which had hardly



started its independent existence twenty years before its outbreak, having been under foreign domination for over a century till the First World War, found herself in a very similar position to India. For India as well emerged from a long dependence just after the end of the Second World War in 1947, only to face an equally enormous task of leading her peoples out of a long stagnation which had been thrust upon them by her, not unlike Polish, history. Thus both our countries found themselves in a very similar position. These similarities of historical tasks, as well as the old ties of friendship and sympathy proved fertile in creating a very favourable atmosphere for reviving and further developing old social forms of contact with India and creating new ones necessitated by our changing world.

The most important new spheres of contact, non-existent before, are political and commercial relations which could not develop as long as one of the countries - or both - were deprived of freedom. As is only natural, when Poland in 1945 and India in 1947 regained their independence it was the trade relations which slowly began creating a sound base for more variegated contacts in other spheres. The direct trade between Poland and India began in 1948 by the sea route; when a regular commercial agreement was established. Three years later Polish Oceanic Lines started operating its ships between the Polish port of Gdynia and Bombay. Nowadays more than a dozen cargo-vessels ply regularly on this line. Thus the first step was made, which later on changed into a wide spectre of various contacts and relations. Culture was next to follow. In 1953



an exhibition of Indian art was organized in Cracow, a beautiful ancient capital city of Poland. On this occasion an Indian cultural delegation came to Poland and the then Indian Ambassador in Moscow presented to the National Museum in Warsaw some priceless Indian art objects.

#### Establishment of formal diplomatic relations.

In this way an establishment of formal diplomatic relations which came a year later was much more significant, having been prepared by a series of very concrete undertakings. Now Polish-Indian relations entered a phase of organised contacts planned on a much broader scale than ever. Exhibitions, lectures, press information, etc. became regular features of those contacts. Following years witnessed an unusual eruption of activities. In 1954 an Indian dance ensemble visited Poland. Next year our eminent economist, late Professor Oscar Lange, Vice President of the Council of State, went to India, where he took part in drawing up the second five-year plan of economic growth and where he delivered at the Delhi University a series of lectures. Simultaneously in Kanpur a group of students who visited Poland on the occasion of the International Youth Festival organised the Indo-Polish Society of Friendship and culture. Later Poland started taking part in international exhibitions, fairs and other ventures held in India. In 1956 there was a Polish exhibition in Lucknow which was later moved to Kanpur. Another exhibition was organized in Delhi and the same year there was in Warsaw an exhibition of Indian art opened which attracted very much public attention in our capital. Now the mutual exchange of exhibitions and visits of eminent men in various walks of life began to gather speed. The Polish mathematician,



Professor K.Kuratowski, and Professor S.Leszczycycki, an outstanding geographer, both of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as a Polish delegation to the All India Conference of Religions visited that country. Later, followed a Polish cultural delegation headed by Ambassador J.K.Wende. The visit of Polish glider pilots to India where they demonstrated their skill proved quite an event. Last but not least Professor E. Słuszkiewicz, eminent Polish Indologist and linguist, represented our country at the Buddha Jayanti Celebrations in 1956.

On the other hand Poland played host to many an Indian, who often visit our country. There were among them writers, poets, journalists, artists, and politicians. Among others Mr Balvant Gargi, Mr Vijayatunga etc. At the same time an exchange of TV and other films was initiated. This coupled with growing activities of the Embassy of Poland in Delhi, which entered a new stage in its history with the first edition of a fortnightly magazine called Polish Facts on File in 1957, which marked a turning point in mutual information concerning our two countries. Now regular news items and longer articles started appearing in the Polish press about India and in Indian press about Poland. As the result, further regional Indo-Polish Friendship Societies were organized in few other Indian cities, in the capital city of Delhi too. Needless to say that the aim of these societies was to work for mutual cultural rapprochement of the two countries. Some very important events in the chain of these happenings took place within the two years from 1955 till 1957. First of all there was an official visit of the late Prime Minister J. Nehru in Poland reciprocated by the Prime Minister J. Cyrankiewicz in 1957, who visited India once



again in 1960. Yet before this visit in 1956 Poland had a privilege to welcome an outstanding philosopher, Professor S. Radhakrishnan, at that time the Vice President of the Indian Republic, who later became its President. Also during that period a Polish-Indian Parliamentary Group was organized in the Parliament of the Polish People's Republic. This group counted around 50 members and began to work for the better understanding of the two countries on the parliamentary level. During his visit to India in 1957 Prime Minister J. Cyrankiewicz signed an agreement of cultural cooperation between Poland and India. This agreement regulates the exchange of scientists, artists, social workers and students in different fields. It stipulates also a close cooperation of research centres, artistic and literary societies, publishing houses, journalists etc., as well as organization of exhibitions, concerts, broadcasts, theatre performances, film-shows and distribution of prizes to those writers and translators who have done an outstanding work in the field of popularization of artistic achievements of one country in another. This agreement includes also an exchange in the field of sports, mutual organization of cultural centres and coordination of information to be found in school-handbooks, as well as official publications. It regulates also a procedure of recognition of scientific degrees. This agreement has been signed for the duration of five years with a stipulation which makes it valid indefinitely provided it is not declared void by any one of the signatories six months before a lapse of each five years period. This fact has put into an organised frame all those spontaneous activities which so far depended solely on the zeal and personal dedication to the cause of Polish-Indian Friendship of the individuals. Of course, it does not mean that their zeal and dedication are



no more needed . To the contrary - now that the possibilities are larger and broader the need for concerted action of all the sympathizers of India has become to be felt even more. The situation was such that as the result of the process outlined above, as well as because of a general revitalization of social initiative in Poland which took place in 1957, Polish-Indian Friendship Societies were organized in different towns of Poland, entirely due to enthusiasm and dedication of lovers and sympathizers of India. Warsaw, Cracow, Poznań, Toruń and Zakopane took the lead. A year-long preparatory campaign was necessary in order to ensure the cooperation of many eminent men in different walks of life, as well as of many institutions, organizations and other social bodies.

#### The birth of the Polish-Indian Friendship Society.

On the 25th of June 1957 in the lecture-hall of the Geographical Institute at the University of Warsaw, the first meeting of the Society was held. After a detailed discussion of the aims, the character and the extent of future activities of the Society, the meeting elected an organizing committee constituting of three members: Mr S. Jabłoński, Mr E. Mazur and Mr L. Żak. After all the formalities and the proper registration of the Society have been duly completed, another meeting was called, this time, of the already formally registered Society, on the 1st of December 1957, in order to elect its office-bearers. Professor Oskar Lange was elected its first President. Due to the dedicated work of all the officials, our Society very quickly emerged from the initial stage and began



its proper activities, i.e., lectures about India, celebrating important national Indian festivals and anniversaries, exhibitions, concerts, films, competitions, meetings, contacts with Indian nationals visiting Poland, supplying information about India, consulting all those who wish to go to India and organising within itself sections dealing with particular subjects of interest regarding India. At the very beginning it was not easy to conduct these activities, if only because the Society did not have its own premises and till the end of 1960 it was a guest of different institutions and organisations. But in 1959 it had been allotted centrally situated premises at Wierzbowa Street 5/7. Yet since they needed an overall renovation, the Society could not use them until a year later. Once again the selfless dedication of our members has come to help and a group of them led by Mr S. Janicki, an architect, has given to the rooms at Wierzbowa Street a truly Indian look. The club-hall has got magnificent torana-like pillars supporting its ceiling and an impressive mosaic map of India on the wall. Our lecture-cum-cinema auditorium also has been furnished with an oriental style pillar and a row of show cases in which Indian art objects are regularly exhibited. These and other items adorning our premises are a generous gift of the Embassy of India in Poland. Needless to say that our club and reading room with a supply of Indian newspapers and journals is a meeting place not only of the members of our Society but also of Indian students who feel at home about and often talk their country.



### Regular features of our activities.

Gradually this activity began to display regular features. One of the most important went are our Indian Wednesdays, i.e., regular weekly lectures on different aspects of Indian culture, economy and politics, delivered by eminent specialists on each Wednesday at 18<sup>00</sup> PM. Similarly Friday film shows have become also a regular event with our Society. Less regular but not less important are concerts of Polish music for Indians living in Poland and Indian recorded music for our members. The same concerns serving Indian tea and curry which are from time to time supplied by the Indian Embassy in Warsaw. Our library consisting of around one thousand volumes is another important field of activity. It gathers a considerable group of readers consisting of scientists, students and people who are to visit India. Besides, all the members of the Society are as well as counted among the readers of this library.

Here are some examples of fastering of cooperation and friendship between our peoples. Their foundations are mutual, respect, knowledge and mutual advantages for both sides, resulting from the common endeavour for world peace and from an effort to build a society of justice and welfare. These are the links between our peoples, although geographically our countries are very far apart.

### Further growth of our activities.

Soon after the foundation of the Society its activity crossed the boundaries of the city of Warsaw and spread to different other Polish towns and cities. As we have already mentioned very active branches of the Society operate in Cracow, Poznań, Łódź, Toruń and Zakopane. The exceptionally friendly



attitude of the municipal and administrative authorities, as well as cultural institutions etc. has largely contributed to their success. The same credit goes to our large collective membership which includes huge foreign trade companies like the Polish Chamber of Commerce, Cekop, Elektrim, Minex, Metalexport, Polimex, Kolmex and Rolimpex. Equally fruitful, although in a different sphere, has been the close cooperation with the Polish National Committee for UNESCO and numerous schools associated with that Committee. Some competitions regarding knowledge about India have been organized for the students of those schools. The Ambassador of India has distributed the prizes won by the young competitors. Moreover a very fruitfull co-operation has developed between the Polish-Indian Friendship Society and the so called houses of Culture, big public clubs where youth and grown-ups can spend their spare time playing games and taking part in different ventures organized by the management. Youngsters associated with these Houses often take part in the functions organized by the Society.

Among the ventures for which the Society supplied a direct stimulus, the ensamble of oriental music under the direction of Mr C. Kwieciński can be counted.

Yet inspite of all these multifarious activities the Polish-Indian Friendship Society is not oriented at a mass membership. In its work it relays on the limited number of dedicated workers and members not exceeding one thousand. But, of course, the overall number of our sympathizers is much, much higher.

#### The day-to-day work of our Society.

It is time now to review the proper work of the Society, as it has been actually taking place during its by now thirteen years old existence.



## Lectures

Lectures are undoubtedly the foremost sphere of its activity. There can be no doubt that the living word is the best transmitter of ideas and of information. Thus lectures followed by discussion and illustrated with slides or films are the greatest attraction of the Society's programme and the best way of acquainting those who are interested, with India and her problems. Especially when those lectures are delivered by people who either visited or lived in India, or by the experts in different fields of Indian studies. This is why the Managing Board of the Society through its Secretariat headed by Mr T. Pangrat, a well known man of letters, has been paying so much attention to the problem of winning for the Society the best lecturers and of a proper selection of subjects, especially because the knowledge about India, has been at the outset of Society's existence rather outmoded. At the beginning Indian antiquity was the center of attention, and there were only few who could speak with same authority about contemporary India. Thus following have been the topics of lectures: history of India, culture, civilization, geography, ethnography, linguistics etc. But above all India's ancient culture its otherness and its exotic aspects attracted the imagination of Poles at large. Nevertheless, slowly as the audience was becoming more and more acquainted with Indian past, it started taking a livelier interest in the problems of contemporary India too. This concerned social and cultural problems, politics, tourism and struggle against backwardness. Yet, it has to be stressed that the earlier subjects have been all the time continued. The following figures concerning the number of lectures delivered will give an idea of our progress in that sphere. During the first phase of



Society's activity from 1958 till 1961 380 lectures are on record. Out of them 130 have been delivered in the Warsaw branch of our Society. The number of lectures within this period grew steadily from year to year. And thus in 1958 there were 58 lectures delivered, in 1959 - 85, in 1960 - 110, in 1961 - 130. Among the district branches the most active have been Toruń, Zakopane and Poznań. It is important to remember that till 1960 the Society did not have its own premises, this being a serious drawback to its activities. Prevalent during that period were historical and political problems. Next came the independence struggle, nations of India, political parties, Kerala, non-alignment, cultural traditions, five year plans, ancient and modern art, philosophy, religions, yoga, life and work of R.Thakur, geography, ethnography, folk customs, travel accounts and the traditions of Polish-Indian friendship. Lectures on these subjects were during that period delivered by such scholars like Professor E.Stuszkiewicz, Associate Professor F.Tokarz, Associate Professor M.Frankowska, Associate Professor W. Rudziński, Dr T.Pobożniak, Dr H.Ghoshal, Besides a number of writers and journalists spoke like T.Bocheński, J.Ficowski, W.Żukrowski, B.Gębarski, J.Hadyna and M.Lubecki. Last but not least W.Dynowska - Umadevi, a Polish lady domiciled in India.

During the next five years /1962-1966/ due to the considerable improvement of the Society's accomodation and due to the growing interest in India, the total number of lectures shot up to 1090. Out of this number 228 were delivered in Warsaw. The stress had been slowly shifting itself from Indian antiquity towards contemporary India and her neighbours, i.e., towards so called greater India. One of the main reasons has been the increasing

**intensive and extensive contact with India making many**



Poles travel and stay there for shorter or longer periods. These people - man and women - on their return to Poland have been sharing their experiences, observations and remarks with the members of the Society. Nevertheless, the fertile field of Indian antiquity has also been tilled as before. Among the more interesting lectures and lecturers of that period can be counted Associate Professor B. Wrozek speaking on socio-political problems, Dr. A. Jakimowicz - on Indian art, W. Billig, former minister, Nuclear Energy Committee - on nuclear cooperation, J. Mitrega, minister of mining - on Polish-Indian cooperation in the field of mining, W. Grzedzielski - on UNESCO East and West programme, J. Kuligowski - on Indian philosophy and yoga, K. Fabris, deputy minister of Mining - on Polish miners in India, F. Modrzewski, deputy minister of Foreign Trade - on Polish-Indian trade relations, J. Życzynski - on views of Soviet scholars regarding India, T. Pasek - on hathayoga /with demonstrations by M. Michalska/, Associate Professor J. Sachs - on the fourth Indian five years plan, R. Frelek - on Gandhian ethics, Z. Sołuba - on the South-East Asia, K. Kęplisz - on contemporary India, M. Warnieńska - on Vietnam, L. Rubach - on miscellaneous Indian subjects, R. Kawiński - on Polish-Indian economic cooperation, F. Wichrzycki - on manners and customs of India and her south-eastern neighbours, Professor Dr J. Reyman - on Orient in Polish culture, Dr Z. Madeyski - on the social development of the Indian village, Dr T. Pobożniak - on impressions of India, Z. Antos - on Indian landscape and customs, S. Puri - on Indian traditions. Apart of this many other different subjects have been dealt with by the lecturers already mentioned and by a host of others not less dedicated to the cause of spreading knowledge about India in Poland. Among more interesting subjects there were: Origin and



development of the Indian Constitution, Arya Samaj - the progressive Hindu Church, Linguistic problems of India /delivered by late judge J. Kenisberg, the president of Warsaw branch of the Society/, History of Polish Indology, Swami Vivekananda, The Indian knowledge of man, The Bhagavadgita, The Vedanta System, The Philosophy of Shri Aurobindo, Everyday life in the Upanishads, The Indian philosophy and individual consciousness, India - the cradle of civilization, New face of contemporary India, Modern Indian philosophers and yoga /delivered by professor W.Lesny of Czechoslovakia/, Agriculture in India, In the mountains of Nepal and Assam and so on. The last period of our lecture activity has been characterized by a rapidly growing percentage of subjects connected with current happenings and problems which influence the everyday life in India. Among the most prominent lecturers and lectures of this period we should mention once again K.Fabris, deputy minister of Mining speaking on Visiting Polish miners in India, further J.Sartowski - Meeting Indian industrialists, R.Kustrzyński - Krishnamurti, The Indian poet and philosopher, K.Kęplich - Zakir Hussain, the Scholar-President of India, Dr T.Pobożniak - Gandhi and Poland, Dr Z.Madeyski - Auroville, the city of brotherhood, M.Grocholski - With the Polish traders at Madras Fair Dr J.Jakimowicz - Contemporary happenings in Indian art, J.Muklanowicz - Polish chemical industry on Indian markets, Z.Lutosławski - Machine-tool industry in India and many other. It follows from the above that a very wide spectre of different problems has been the characteristic feature of the lecture activity sponsored by the Polish-Indian Friendship Society. Many out of these lectures are being tape-recorded and are circulated to different country branches of the Society.



Cooperation with the Department of Indology.

Quite a separate chapter in the lecture activity of the society constitutes the close cooperation in this respect with the Department of Indology, Warsaw University which dates back to 1966. Of course, even earlier there have been some more or less sporadic contacts. But only during the last years his cooperation has entered a new phase. Following a mutual agreement the society has put one Wednesday monthly to the exclusive disposal of the Department of Indology. These ten lectures a year /two months of summer vacations excluded/ provide a much welcomed tribune to the scholars of the University. They can speak on subjects related to India, to a much wider public not exclusively limited to the University milieu. Presenting thus the results of their work, their ideas and theories outside the University walls they can popularize sound knowledge about Indian culture. On the other hand this arrangement lends to the Society the prestige and scholarly authority inherent on the University. In this way the membership of the society gets a source of tested and academically checked information about things Indian. The following scholars have so far lectured under this programme: Prof. Dr E. Słuszkiewicz - on Buddhism, Kautilya's Arthashastra the great epics, and Sanskrit aphoristic poetry, Dr H. Goshal /late/ - on the Gupta empire, Dr T. Rutkowska - on Prithvirajraso Tulsidas and Guru Nanak, Dr M. K. Byrski - on Bhasa, Indian culture and bhana, Mrs A. Karlikowska - on Mohenjodaro and Harappa, Mr A. Ługowski, MA - on Sanskrit language and on Indians on the bank of Tiger river, Mr A. Karp, MA - non Emperor. Ashoka, Mrs B. Grabowska, MA - on Jayadeva, Mr L. Cyboran, MA - on The Six Philosophical Systems and Mrs A. Kowalska - Soni, MA -



on Indra, the hero of the Rigveda. From other Departments there was Prof Dr J. Bielawski lecturing on Islam in India and Dr J. Kieniewicz - on Europeans in Malabar. The programme for the current year is as interesting as before and embraces altogether new subjects.

### Celebrating important events.

Celebrating important events in the history of India, before all Indian national festivals is also a very important chapter in the activity of our Society. Foremost such festivals are, of course, the 26th of January, i.e., the Republic Day and Independence Day on the 15th of August. Further come the birth-days of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Guru Nanak and so on.

It hardly needs stressing that these are the occasions on which the deepening of contact and of mutual understanding between our nations takes place. On these occasions the Indian community in Poland headed by the Ambassador of India meets Polish friends of their country in order to celebrate together these festivals. Deep sentiments of common goals and common responsibilities radiate from ensuing togetherness. Thus these sentiments imprint upon the memory of Poles that the great Indian nation has similar aspirations and is similarly striving to create a better and brighter world.

One of the most recent such functions was the Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Celebration. The Minister of Culture, Mr L. Motyka has been a patron and a general sponsor of those celebrations. The meeting at the Palace of Culture has been their culminating point. Apart from official speeches, there



were excerpts of Mahatma Gandhi's and Nehru's writings recited by famous actors Mr J. Uiecierski and Mr Z. Zapasiewicz and some films shown during the function. Gifts for the Gandhi Museum in New Delhi, have been also handed over including portfolio of graphics on Mahatma's life executed by Mrs Bielska-Tworkowska and a bronze slate with the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi by Mr M. Chlebny. This artist along with Mr T. Niewiadomski have also exhibited on the occasion busts of Gandhi whose Autobiography has been printed in new edition. It should be added that all this has been the result of the inspiration and relentless efforts of the Society's most active members headed by Mr T. Fangrat, the secretary general and Mr J. Kuligowski.

Many visits of important persons from India or important delegations furnish an additional opportunity to arrange similar functions often graced with interesting artistic and literary productions either by our Indian guests or by Polish artists.

#### Exhibitions.

Further the Society popularizes India in Poland through the medium of exhibitions. Apart of big ones which are organized or sponsored by the government and which are naturally less frequent, the Society arranges around 25-to-30 smaller exhibitions a year shifting them from place to place. These exhibitions are mostly arranged in the premises of the Society and constitute a very important visual medium of spreading knowledge about India. Here are few subjects which have been so far covered by our exhibitions: Ajanta paintings, Indian politicians, Indian book and book on India, Folk painting in Orissa, Books of Thakur, Thakur's painting, Indian musical instruments.



Indian plants in Poland, Water-colours of Kashinath Khatau, India in the eyes of children, Indian stamps, Indian industry, Polish miners in India, Indian greeting cards, Indian miniatures, The monuments of ancient Indian art, Drawings from India by W.Koscielniak, Ceylon - a country with Indian culture, The graphics of Mr V.Dholekar, Indian match-box labels and so on and so forth. The priceless assistance of the Indian Embassy in Warsaw has been instrumental in organizing all these exhibitions which are mostly opened in collaboration with municipal authorities, museums, scientific institutes, various clubs and different enterprises. These exhibitions have attracted a very large public and have met with most favourable opinion.

#### Film shows.

Film-shows are yet another form of our activity. Indian films attract spectators with their gay colours and exotic air. Mostly they are documentaries. Unhappily feature films are a rarity with us to great detriment of our propagating activities. The Indian Embassy is our main supplier. During the initial period of Society's existence when we did not have our proper hall, film-shows were organized haphazardly at different places. It had from one side a certain adverse aspect caused by the difficulty to inform properly each time our members. On the other hand the audiences of those shows often included much broader public never entirely limited to our membership alone. Roughly speaking there have been around 20 film-shows yearly. But only four of them during the entire existence of the Society/ were feature films. Feature films like The Lighthouse, Pather Panchali, Devadasi and documentaries like The Life of Buddha,



Dancing Shiva, Land of Brahmputra, Orissa, Radha and Krishna and Indian dance were among the most popular ones. Recently there has been established a regular practice of screening films twice a month during the "Film-Fridays", although because of the rather irregular supply of Indian films, also films acquired due to kindness of other Asian Embassies are being shown /mainly Japanese/. Our aim is to secure a regular supply of Indian documentaries and at least twice or thrice a year screen an Indian feature-film. Indian film-festivals have been organized twice /in 1962 and 1963/ due to efforts of the Society. Yet all this is far from being sufficient in order to acquaint Polish audience with Indian films and thus create a regular demand of these films which could in future open commercial deals in this respect. Despite our aspirations during recent years the supply of Indian films has been sharply declining forcing us to rely on Japanese supplies and on our own films made in India by Polish teams. All this, of course does not satisfy our demands.

#### Indian music and Polish music.

One of the aims of our Society is the popularization of Indian music in Poland and Polish music among Indians. In order to achieve this the Society organizes concerts and musical evenings of Polish music for Indians and Indian /mostly recorded/ music for Poles. A very important work in this respect is being done by the already mentioned Oriental Music Ensemble under the direction of Mr Kwieciński. Last but not least visits of Indian artists in Poland have to be mentioned



in this connection. Shrimati Indrani Rehman in 1958 and 1959, Darpana in 1960, Shri Balachander in 1965 and Kumari Padma Subrahmanyam in 1968 have contributed greatly to the knowledge of Indian sangita in Poland. Their superb performances caused the ranks of admirers of Indian art to grow rapidly. Consequently Indian dance and music is being more and more appreciated in this country. Concerts of Indian music often connected with sari shows are a very popular event with the Polish public.

### Competitions.

Apart of these activities which call only for a passive participation of our members, the Society has been organizing different kinds of competitions. There was in 1962 a competition for students entitled "What do you know about India ?", repeated once again in 1964. Altogether 17 schools and eight Houses of Culture participated in this competition. Prizes were handed over to the winners at a special function by the Ambassador of India. The third competition has been open to Indians studying in Poland, entitled "Poland as I see her". Most of the entries have been printed in the monthly "Polish Review". In 1966 a competition was organized for amateur artists entitled "The Indian motives in amateur art". There was a remarkably large participation in that competition and the winners were awarded prizes at a special function coupled with the celebrations of the 10th anniversary of the Society. The last competition was announced on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Celebrations and was simply a local Polish extension of a world wide essay competition on Gandhi and the emancipation of man. This time the entries were not so numerous but the standard of those entries was such that around 50% of them won prizes.



Life has been putting some demands which the Society had to fulfill. To this type of demands belong information services for all who need help either in research work regarding India or before setting off there. Initially there was an arrangement for the collection of press cuttings concerning India. Yet later due to the shortage of qualified personnel and in view of the growing demands for reference information stress has been laid on the library and the close cooperation with the Indology Department of the University of Warsaw. Besides the Society secured a regular supply of the Indian dailies and periodicals. Jointly with the library of more than thousand volumes, and the consultations with the Indology Department and consultations with the expert members of the Society this constitutes our answer to the information requirements which seem to grow steadily.

Contacts with the mass-communication media.

The Society's collaboration and contacts with press, radio and TV are another aspect of the same problem. It is very important that the activity of the Society be reflected by the mass media of communication. Therefore the Society has been taking care to maintain a close contact with journalists and to keep them informed and through them to keep public opinion informed on India. Owing to the efforts of many journalists who are our members, the Society can record great success in this respect. The Polish press prints fair amount of news concerning India and concerning our activity. One of the important means in this respect are special interviews for the press. Members of the Chief Managing Board grant several interviews a year-supplying also all necessary material illustrating our activities.



Also due to our initiative, from time to time issues of some magazines are wholly devoted to India and her problems. Moreover some of the members of the Chief Managing Board have been contributing press articles. For instance in 1958 Mr L. Żak, the then general secretary published an article entitled - On the development of Polish-Indian Relations. Further Captain S. Jabłoński, the vicepresident of the Society - an article on The development of Polish-Indian cultural relations, Mr J. Kuligowski - Poland honours Thakur's memory, Dr Z. Madeyski - The activities of Polish-Indian Friendship Society and Mr S. Henel on the same subject. Last but not least the present president of the Society Mr Antoni Korzycki after his visit to India in 1966 in a capacity of the leader of the Polish Parliamentary delegation has published a series of reports on India which has also appeared in a book form. Besides during recent years there have been published several books on India, some of them by the members of our Society. The most outstanding among them is the book by Mr K. Kęplich, our member entitled "Old India in the New World". Mr. B. Mrozek's book entitled "India yesterday and today" also merits mentioning.

As we have remarked earlier not only the press but equally well the radio and TV are showing a keen interest in India and her culture due, considerably, to the inspiration of our Society. To exemplify this let us mention a broadcast of Thakur's Post Office on the occasion of his anniversary, repeated later, twice in a visual form by the TV in 1958. A year later a broadcast performance of Kalidasa's Shakuntala was superbly executed by Mr J. Grotowski and in 1962 staged at our premises by his troupe. Moreover there were many instances of Indian topics mentioned or discussed in different programmes concerning Asia



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as a whole, which in many cases was due to Society's direct suggestion.

Miscellaneous activities.

It may easily be guessed that different enterprises and undertakings of the Society do not fit in the frames of the above classification. We propose to deal with them now. Let us begin with the fact that during recent few years the Society brought about naming of streets in Warsaw, Łódź and Zielona Góra after Rabindranath Thakur and after Mahatma Gandhi. Quite recently due to our efforts a new school now under construction has been named after Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his Centenary Celebrations.

In 1962 the then Ambassador of Poland to India Mr P. Ogrodziński handed over to Prime Minister Nehru albums of photographs illustrating the activities of our Society.

From time to time when there is a demand the Society organizes special courses of Indian languages /so far there have been organized two such courses of Sanskrit and Hindi/.

In 1964 one of our outstanding painters professor Kulisiewicz of the Fine Arts Academy of Warsaw was awarded Calcutta Art Society Medal for his superb Indian sketches. The medal was handed over at a special ceremony at the headquarters of our Society by the Ambassador of India and a special envoy of the Calcutta Art Society. The function was widely publicized by the press, radio and TV.

An event the sad aspect of which had a profound impact upon public opinion in Poland was the hunger calamity which



affected India in 1966 due to the unexpected drought. This terrifying event released a powerful amount of compassion and pity for our Indian fellow-man, as well as the feeling of brotherhood with him which made people to contribute generously for the poor and needy. The Society started a collection of funds which reached the amount of fifteen lakhs of zlotys. This amount was transferred to the Polish Red Cross organization which on behalf of Poland was carrying on a relief action. All this proved that it is not an abstract interest in exotic Indian culture alone which makes people like that country but that it is, before all, her people and their problems which are so close to us.

The work for lepers in India of one of our members, Mrs B. Birczyńska was of the same import. So great resources in the form of medicines and medical equipment were mobilized for her that it once again proved the true human friendship of Poland for India.

To a totally different, although an important sphere, belong our contacts with the Indian section of the Soviet Committee of Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. These contacts aim at the mutual exchange of information and experiences. The visit in Warsaw in 1968 of Professor E.P. Ghelyshev, the vice-president of the Committee and an expert indologist was a turning point which has revived these contacts. Further on, it should be noted that the Secretary General of our Society took part in the International Gandhi Seminar organized by the World Council of Peace and the War Resisters' International at Budapest.



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Besides this, the following aspects of the Society's work

deserve notice:

- exchange of New Year greetings with our Indian friends who visited Poland.

- publishing of pamphlets on the Society in Polish and in English. The Polish version on which the English one is based was written by Captain S. Jabłoński, the vicepresident of the Society.

- yoga demonstrations by Mrs Malina Michalska, who has won in 1967 a diploma of the Bihar Yoga Institute conferred upon her by Ma Yogashakti on her tour in Europe.

- the close cooperation with different Polish cultural institutions and bodies, regarding India and her culture.

- periodic general meetings of the entire membership of the Society which elect its new authorities and review its activities.

#### Visits from India.

Should one ask what are the milestones of Society's life, the answer will be - visits from India. Here it should be noted that Society does not itself arrange such visits directly from India for it is not the appropriate authority in this field. Yet it always heartily welcomes all who officially or on their own happen to visit Warsaw. The direct human contact which ensues from these visits is their most valued aspect. Some of such most important visits have been already mentioned earlier. Here it should be added that in autumn 1968 the Society had a



proud privilege of welcoming in its house the Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi, who ceremonially lighted an oil lamp and put her signature in our guest book.

Speaking in general terms, during the past over ten years of the Society's existence there were well above 250 people who visited our club. In that number two tourist-groups of around forty people each and also some cultural delegations. Naturally it is impossible to mention here every body by name. We shall therefore limit ourselves to mentioning only some of our guests and to a general description of the professional groups to which they belonged.

Among our visitors politicians have been the most numerous. Their number during past years exceeded fifty. Ministers of the Central Government head the list. They are: Mr N.S.Reddy - Minister of Mines and Metalurgy, Mr H.A.C. Chagla - Minister of Education, Mr. V.K.R.V. Rao - Minister of Shipping and Transport, Mr N.S.Gurupadaswamy - Minister of Agriculture, Mr T.Sen - Minister of Mining and Metalurgy, Mr H.Singh - Speaker of Lok Sabha, H.H.Tyaga Chamararaja Wadiyar - Governor of Mysore, Mr V.Muthuswamy - Mayor of Madras, Mr T.N.Kaul - Indian Ambassador in USSR, Mr F.Mukherjee - Leader of the Communist Parliamentary Group, Mr V.Swarup - Member of U.P. Parliament and the President of Indo-Polish Society in Kanpur, Mr K.R.Shivaramakrishnan - Director in the Ministry of Interior Affairs, and Mr L.R.S.Singh - Former Ambassador of India in Poland.

Second to politicians are scholars and scientists. Here are some of them /their total number is well over 40/: Mr V.W.R.V. Rao - Vicechancellor, Delhi University, Dr G.Ramachandran - Gandhigram, Dr V.Sarabhai - Nuclear Energy Commission,



Dr.S.Ghosh - Professor of History of art and architecture, Mr. M.M. Khokhar - classical Indian dance expert, Dr H.L.Sondhi - Institute of International Studies and his wife, and Dr G.Chand-an outstanding Indian economist.

Next comes a sizeable group of poets, writers, artists and journalists. Around thirty persons of each professional group visited our Society. Among them were: Mr B.Gargi - playwright and essayist, Mr P.C.Das - translator of Polish classics into Oriya, Mr M.R.Anand - writer , Mrs N.Ramachandran - danseuse, Mr H.Singh - painter, Mr. O.M.Anujan - literateur, Mr S.Sircar-playwright, Mr M.Panikkar - journalist, Mr B.Bhattacharya - writer, Mr F.Moraes - editor, Indian Express, Mr D.Kumar - Federation of Film Journalists, Mr O.P.Sangala - editor, Link Magazine, Mr M.Chalapa - journalist, Mr D.Mehta - journalist and Mr S.K.Ghosh - journalist.

Some of them are also outstanding social-workers, with Mr Jayaprakash Narayan of Sarvodaya in the first place who was also our guest. In this group of social workers should be mentioned also Mr T.N.Jutaki - Gandhian Society, Austria and Mr B.Kumar - Trade Unions.

The visit of Mr P.S.Ramachandran - Ministry of Commerce and Mr Hirsch Cynowicz - Indian exporters of iron ore, deserve a separate mention for those gentlemen represent another group of our guests connected with the industry.

Finally there were some,"freelance visitors" who came to Poland their own. Here Ma Yogashakti of Bihar, Swami Premananda, and Umadevi /W.Dynowska/, a Polish lady living in India must be mentioned.

Most of the above listed guests of our Society gave either lectures or practically demonstrated their art. They spoke



on literature, art, architecture, theory and practice of Gandhism, theatre, dance, etc. Most of our guests maintain their contact with us after their return to India. During their visit to our Society they are exhaustively informed about Poland and about our country's political, economical and cultural problems and achievements - and, of course, about the activity of the Society.

As it has been said earlier, there have been all the time many different private people visiting our country and our Society. A large portion of them are MA and Ph.D. or diploma students and scholars. Encouraged by the Society the students have been often taking part or organizing shows or club-evenings during which they presented items giving an excellent testimony to the high quality and deepness of their respective cultural traditions.

In order to wind up this chapter of our remarks we would like to recall one of the most pleasant visits we had here in 1966. It was Mr S.Roy, the first Indian representative in Poland who was passing through our country and called on our Society which he could watch from its very inception.

#### Cooperation with the Indian Embassy.

This brings us to another problem which we would like to discuss in some detail. It is our relationship and our fruitfull cooperation with the Indian Embassy in Warsaw.

Our contacts with this outpost of India in our country are of a very diversified nature. An everyday cooperation concerns



the organizations of various functions in which the members of the Embassy headed by the Ambassador have been often taking a very active part. If only to mention Mr L.R.S.Singh, the former Ambassador and Mr S.N.Puri, formerly the second secretary. Their memory is still cherished at the Society. An unchangeably good cooperation also with the present staff of the Embassy headed by the Ambassador Mr M.V.V. Nair is of a great help to us in our work as it lends to it still greater prestige and importance. On the other hand the Society facilitates for the Embassy a much broader contact with Polish public than it could ever have without its help.

The valuable contribution of the Embassy for the Society in the form of books journals, periodicals, films, records, tapes, photographs, Indian objects of art, items of folklore, pictures, tapestry, sculpture etc., etc. gives to its premises a truly Indian look and constitutes yet another aspect of our contacts.

Finally personal ties between the members, of the Embassy and our members as well as the talks which some of them or their wives /as for instance Mrs M.Singh, wife of the first secretary, who spoke on women in India/ deliver must be mentioned because this type of cooperation in no lesser way contributes to our main purpose, i.e., disseminating true and exact knowledge about India in Poland and vice versa.

It is in appreciation of this warm relationship that the Society organizes often farewell functions for the members of the Embassy who are about to leave Poland, presenting to them souvenirs connected with the city of Warsaw and its history.



Feature perspectives.

Let us now, at the end of these remarks, have for a moment a look forward towards future. What are our plans, our aspirations and our hopes ?

First of all we want to continue our activity in its present shape and direction but in much more perfect form. We wish therefore, that our colaboration with the indological centers in Poland and with the Indian Embassy be still closer. All this in order to improve our work and to make it more efficient. Hoping to embrace with our activities much broader sections of Polish public we shall take necessary steps to open new branches of the Society wherever social demand will justify this. We shall also strive to broaden our cooperation with different Polish institutions, enterprises, offices, trade companies etc., who deal with India, so that they may become better and more understanding partners of this great Asian country.

The motto of our activities will always be - to know more, to understand better and to love deeper your fellow man. We hope that inspite of the difference between our countries in size, population and importance within their respective continents, India will make similar reciprocal efforts to propagate true and exact knowledge about our country amongst her citizens. For we believe that history has repeatedly proved that whoever wants to understand Central European affairs in particular, and European in general, and whoever wants to deal successfully with this region of the world has also to know and understand our country, which despite her limited size and her population of thirty million people has been playing an increasingly greater role in Europe and outside.



## THE PRESENT AUTHORITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The Polish-Indian Friendship Society is headed by an Executive Committee or Chief Managing Board whose Chairman is Mr Antoni KORZYCKI, Member of the Sejm<sup>x/</sup>, Vice President of the United Peasant Party and Chairman of the Polish-Indian Parliamentary Group.

Vice-Presidents of the Executive Committee are:

Captain Stanisław JABŁOŃSKI /Navy retired/

Mr Stefan KILJAN, M.A., lawyer.

Mr Edmund MAZUR, M.A. lawyer.

Secretary General of the Society:

Mr Tadeusz FANGRAT, writer.

At the Executive Committee there are nine other members representing cultural, political and economic circles. Following are their names:

Mr Leon ADAMCZYK, Manager of the TV.

Mr Jozef DZIEMIDOK, Colonel /Navy retired/

Mr Jerzy HAGMAJER, physician, social worker.

Mr Zdzisław HOFFMAN, economist.

Mr Klemens KĘPLICZ, journalist.

Mr Zbigniew MADEYSKI, economist.

Mr Tadeusz POBOŻNIAK, Professor of Indology.

Mr Leon ROGALA, Manager of the College of Foreign Languages.

The Polish-Indian Friendship Society has branches in several Polish towns, here are the names of their actual presidents:

Warszawa /Warsaw/:

President: Mr Ludomir RUBACH, journalist.

Address: 5/7, Wierzbowa Str., Warsaw.

<sup>x/</sup> Polish Parliament.



**P o z n a n :**

**P r e s i d e n t :** Zygmunt WĘGRZYK, the Director General of the International Fair.

**Address:** 14, Głogowska Str. Poznan.

**K r a k o w /Cracow/:** University Centre, one of the oldest centres of Polish cultura/.

**P r e s i d e n t :** Professor Dr Tadeusz POBOŻNIAK

**Address:** 20, Gołębia Str. /Uniwersytet Jagielloński/, Krakow

**Z a k o p a n e /mountain resort well-known in Europe/.**

**P r e s i d e n t :** Mr Eugeniusz BUCYK

**Address:** Zakopane, P.O.Box 127

**T o r u Ń /University Centre/:**

**P r e s i d e n t :** Professor Dr Eugeniusz ŚLUSZKIEWICZ

**Address:** 39/45, Nowickiego Str. Toruń.

**Ł ó d ź :**

**P r e s i d e n t :** Mr Czesław SADOWSKI,

**Address:** 15 Ogrodowa Str. Łódź.



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